

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The deregulation of the communications industry has lead to effective control of media outlets by only a handful of companies. They have entered into a competition that does not rest on who serves the public interest, but instead on who can make the most profit in order to expand and outflank the competition. As this happens networks are less willing to spend money in the pursuit of real journalism and instead cut corners by presenting worthless punditry. Such corporations no longer serve the public interest